

Q. Do you receive the Negro Liberator?
A. Is that a newspaper or a magazine? I don't recall, but I know we have magazines dealing with the Negro problem.

Q. Do you take the Daily Worker? Of what organization is that paper?
A. Yes, it is the official organ of the Communist party.

Q. Where are the headquarters of the Communist Party?
A. New York City.

Q. Does the Communist party contribute anything to Commonwealth College?
A. No, although occasionally members of the party come down as students. That is when I say "no", I mean financially, but I wish they did because money has purchasing power, regardless of its source.

Q. Do you believe in the social, political, and economic equality of the white and the black race?
A. I am simply studying that problem. I can state definitely that I believe in the political and economic equality of both races.

Q. Do you state that you do not believe definitely in the social equality of both races?
A. I will make no such statement, since I am still studying the problem.

Q. Now I notice here in the Commonwealth College Fortnightly under date of February 15th, 1935, an item headed "United Front Formed at Commonwealth", it is said there in among other things that "an all-inclusive united front for work in the state of Arkansas and vicinity was formed recently at Commonwealth without a dissenting vote." The purpose of the United Front is first to work with the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, is that true?
A. I believe such United Front was agreed to, although the question of forming the United Front was handled at the time I was in the Eastern part of the State.

Q. The sixth item says this: "TO BUILD REVOLUTIONARY STUDENTS AND TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COLLEGES OF THE STATE." That is one of the issues according to the article appearing in the Fortnightly, for which the United Front was formed?
A. I am not certain that the United Front has been formally agreed upon. *****

Q. Does your school advocate revolution in order to carry out its principles, if so what kind of a revolution?
A. The school presents a point of view of the revolutionary groups in the United States along with the points of view of other groups. As an institution, Commonwealth is not advocating any type of revolution. Such discussion is engaged in by the individuals on the campus, and the opinion or points of view of such individuals are varied.

Q. Will you state what are the other revolutionary groups that you mentioned in your previous answer?
A. They are the Workers Party, Communist Party, Opposition Party, Isthmian Party, Socialist Party. I do not believe this list is inclusive, but it is indicative. We are interested in knowing what all these groups propose, and we are also interested in knowing what the non-revolutionary groups propose.

Q. When your statement is used in this paper, "to build revolutionary student and teacher organizations in the colleges of the state" did you propose to overthrow the present government?
A. I do not know what specific program such organization is established would propose.

Q. Your groups do propose a revolution?
A. What groups?

Q. The groups as stated in the Commonwealth College Fortnightly on the front page under article "United Front Formed at Commonwealth"

which you have identified as Exhibit "F" to your testimony. I will read the following: "Organizations participating are the Commonwealth College Association, which is the governing body of the school, made up mostly of teachers, the Socialist Local and the Communist faction on the campus."

A. To my knowledge no such groups have as yet been formed, according to the program if carried out, they will be formed. However, I am not entirely clear as to what you mean by revolutionary student groups. Such groups exist nationally, and have existed for years. They have the same legality as the Democratic and Republican parties.

Q. Your article states: "To build revolutionary student and teacher organizations in the colleges of the state"; now, if this is your official paper, may I ask you what you mean by "Revolutionary student and teacher organizations in the colleges of the state?"

A. I was not present at the time the United Front agreement was drawn up, consequently, I am not aware of the discussion which took place, so do not know what these responsible for that provision in the United Front agreement had in mind specifically.

Q. You have not disaffirmed or disavowed this principle, have you?

A. Certainly not, that I have not disavowed the United Front agreement in its entirety.

Q. Do you respect the flag of the United States government?

A. You asked me that previously, and I stated I did not care to answer because I do not believe that question is germane for the purpose of the investigation.

Q. Do you have any higher respect for any other flag of any other country than you do the United States flag?

A. I personally am not a worshipper of symbols and I consider flags to be only symbols.

Q. Do you have a higher regard for other governments than the regard you have for the American Government?

A. I believe that the Government of the United Socialist Soviet Republics is in many ways superior to that of the American Government, because the United Socialist Soviet Republic does not suffer from such things as unemployment, plantation system, great economic inequality, et cetera. For that reason I have a healthy curiosity in the differences which are occurring in the U. S. S. R. I believe it has great social significance to the world.

Q. Now do you believe in that to such an extent that you would attempt to overthrow the American form of Government if it should be necessary to arrive at that principle?

A. My view is that of a teacher, I am interested in examining all proposals and in seeing that other people know and understand the same proposals. I am not a member of any political party. Consequently, I have no personal specific program.

Q. Will you answer my question - yes or no?

A. To do that would be unfair to your question.

Q. What are the doctrines of the U. S. S. R. as to marriage?

A. I am not very well informed on that. I know only the general idea of the institution, namely, that the home life is happier and there are fewer divorces there than in the United States. I am very much interested in that phenomenon. I would be glad to get any additional information possible explaining that phenomenon.

Q. You, therefore, do not have sufficient information of the Russian Government in regard to marriage to form an opinion?

A. Any opinion I have must be general, and somewhat superficial, because I do not have detailed information on the institution of marriage in Russia.

Q. Do you individually recognize the 4th of July and other National Holidays?

A. Personally, I am usually so busy I cannot take time off for holidays.

Q. Do you feel like that you are obligated to this Government where you live?

A. Part of that allegiance is living up to the Constitution, which gives me the right of freedom of speech and freedom of writing, et cetera, which may be of a critical character.

Q. Can you answer my question, yes or no?

A. No, it would be unfair to your question for me to answer it that abruptly. ****

Q. Do you think that freedom permits you to teach the overthrow of this Government?

A. Freedom arouses that point of view to be expressed along with all other points of view.

Q. Have you been teaching the overthrow of this Government?

A. I have presented that position, that point of view, along with other points of view. I think it is important that the American citizens be acquainted with the various points of view, because only then are they in position to make up their minds individually, and I think this matter of drawing conclusions is not up to the teachers, but up to the individuals in the class.

Q. Well, do you teach that doctrine in the Commonwealth College?

A. That point of view is discussed at Commonwealth College along with other points of view. ****

Q. Can either blacks or whites join this Union (referring to the Tenant Farmers' Union), if they come within the class that you stated could join?

A. They not only can join, but are encouraged to join and it is very essential that they do join, because the negro worker and the white worker experience exploitation of the plantation system and unless both race groups belong to the Union, the planters are apt to provoke a race war, which the Union will do everything in its power to prevent. ****

Q. It is your firm conviction now (regarding share-croppers and tenants) that tenants or sharecroppers who have no contract to stay on land can lawfully hold said lands for the year 1936?

A. That is a leading question. I object to it. It is not in keeping with any expression that I have made.

Q. Have you ever advocated the use of firearms directly or indirectly for the purpose of persuading the members of the said Union or any other people in order to carry out this idea of the proper form of government?

A. As a student of facts on social problems, I have merely pointed out that some organizations do believe some use of force may be necessary in the case of self-defense.

Q. Have you ever advocated the bearing of arms by any person or persons at any time?

A. Well, I think I suggested that when people come out to meet rebels it is well to carry firearms. I have always opposed the carrying of arms in individuals and imperialistic wars, because such wars are destructive to our civilization and to the best interest of the majority of the people. *****

Q. Do you advocate the form of government in this country or the Third International?

A. I present the point of view in the program proposed in the Third International along with the points of view of any other organization or parties just as I do the Democratic and Republican parties. *****

Q. Mr. Koch, in the Arkansas Gazette, under date of December 14th, 1934, there was an associated press story attributed to you, which invited students who had been expelled from Universities.

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over the entire country for their radicalism to come to Commonwealth, what is your view point in inviting that class of students to attend the school of which are the head?

A. These students that you are referring to were expelled because of their fight against fascism. This fight against fascism fights to preserve our civilization, therefore, instead of being expelled they should have been honored and certainly the least recognition Commonwealth could give to their services was to invite them to enroll as students of the school. *****

Q. Does the U. S. S. R. grant the right of freedom of speech and freedom of assemblage?

A. There is perhaps more freedom of speech and freedom of assemblage in the U. S. S. R. than in the United States, according to my information.

Q. You referred a moment ago to the Poinsett County experience, you were placed in jail, were you not?

A. I was falsely placed in jail on a trumped up charge.

Q. How long were you in jail?

A. I was in jail four nights due to the unlawful actions of the City Marshall and Mayor Smith.

Q. Did you pay a fine?

A. I was in on a fake charge, I was kangarooed.

Q. What was the outcome?

A. The outcome of the kangaroo was a sentence involved, a \$50.00 fine and was immediately appealed to the March term of Circuit Court, and then I predict that it will be thrown out of court.

Q. Who went on your bond?

A. Mr. Hall.

Q. Who is Mr. Hall?

A. He is a man of courage and a man who has respect for a man's constitutional rights. The planters are not successful in intimidating him.

TESTIMONY OF T. J. THOMAS, first having been duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:

I live on the college property; I rent land from Lucien Koch.

Q. Have you seen men and women at Commonwealth College in bathing together without clothes on?

A. Sure.

Q. When?

A. Last summer (1934).

Q. Where?

A. Down on Mill Creek in the swimming hole.

Q. How many?

A. Six, eight, or ten, a creek full of them.

Q. Does that occur often?

A. Oh, yes, pretty often.

Q. Have you noticed prior to last year the same thing happening?

A. Yes, it has been going on that way ever since Mr. Zeuch and Mr. Goodhue left there. Zeuch came to my house last summer and asked me all about how things were running.

Q. Did you see any other indecent things in the swimming hole, that is, any actions on their part?

A. No, in the swimming pool they were just swimming.

Q. Now, any other place?

A. Well, yes.

Q. Where?

A. In the woods.

Q. Naked?

A. Just the same as naked.

Q. What were they doing?

A. You can guess the balance of it.

Q. Were they having intercourse?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know who they were?

A. I know the girl, she was at the school last summer.

Q. Was she a girl of the college?

A. She came to the college when Mr. Zeuch and Goodhue were there. She was there one day when Mr. Zeuch had me to eat dinner with him, and this little girl just kinda set back. She was just 15 years old, going on 16. She just kinda pushed herself back. She said when she came she was a decent girl, but she made the remark, she says "I am ruined". She says, "when I came here I was a decent girl, today I am ruined." *****

Q. Was the man involved in this act a student in this college?

A. Yes.

Q. What was his name?

A. I could not tell you. He was a foreigner. *****

Q. Do you know of other indecent instances in this college?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were the parties students in that college?

A. Yes, I guess I passed as close as five or six feet and could have kicked them if I had wanted to.

Q. Did they see you?

A. Yes, and did not pay me any mind. I just walked by.

Q. Do you know who they were?

A. No, it was right and I could not tell exactly who they were, but I know they were students by the way they were dressed, and they were just down under the hill from the college on the college land.

Q. Do you know of any other instances?

A. Well, I don't know that I do, only I know they live there together and leave there together. They just stay together when they are not married. *****

Q. Are they ashamed of their belief, or do they seem to be proud of their belief?

A. They seem to be proud of their belief, and they say there isn't no such thing as a Supreme Being. *****

Q. Have you heard Mr. Koch express himself with reference to marriage?

A. Well, nothing except I saw him one night in a play at the college divorcing and marrying them as they did in Russia. *****

Q. That was in a play and he was not actually giving them away?

A. No, No, that was in a play, and he was showing them like they were doing in Russia. And then a girl went out and in just a short while she came back, two of them, and said "We want to get married." Lucien says "Alright". "Do you think this man will suit you?" and she says "Yes, we have been living together for a month and we have tried each out and we think that we suit each other." *****

Q. Now, after this marriage was there anything said about this marriage being the proper manner in which to be married?

A. All that was said, Lucien Koch made the remark "That is the way we do business in Russia, and believe in it." *****

TESTIMONY OF L. E. SHEPHERD, first being duly sworn,
testifies as follows, to-wit:

My land adjoins the property of Commonwealth College. I am
years old.

Q. Have you seen any indecent activities on the part of either the
students or the professors in the last few years?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you state what these activities consisted of?

A. A little bit rough just at the present time. Last summer I seen
hugging and kissing and squeezing and indecent conduct right
before myself and others. *****

Q. Have you seen illegal co-habitation among the students at
Commonwealth College?

A. Yes, up until two years back.

Q. Did you see anything else unusual last summer down there?

A. Yes, the last summer they were in the swimming hole there in
a public place.

Q. Naked?

A. Yes.

Q. Girls or boys?

A. Girls.

Q. Have you seen similar action at other times? Somewhere else?

A. Yes, sometime three or four years back, of the students.

Q. Were they mixed?

A. Yes, that bunch was.

Q. Some three or four years back when you saw these students in
the swimming hole, naked, were they boys or girls?

A. They were boys and girls, too, both sexes.

Q. Together?

A. Together, out in the pool, all in the same swimming hole. *****

Q. Mr. Shepherd, what do you know with reference to their belief
as to a Supreme Being?

A. They absolutely deny that there is a deity, and they will have
nothing to do with students or men in regard to working with
them or for them unless they stand in line with their beliefs
and advocate the same Russian belief that they do.

Q. You know of your own knowledge that they do teach there is not
a Supreme Being?

A. Sure, I have heard them argue it right out in stiff arguments that
there is no such thing as a Supreme Being.

Q. Do they observe Sunday for a day of rest?

A. No, not in a quiet way. Some of the students have the privilege
of taking off Sundays, but they are usually working
through Sunday. Such as typewriting and I saw a fellow
boards last Sunday.

Q. Who was this man?

A. Clay Fuls.

Q. Is he a teacher?

A. He is a teacher and an attorney at law.

Q. Mr. Shepherd, what do you know from your own knowledge with ref-
erence to their belief in our own American form of Government?

A. They believe in the Russian form of government, so we would not have to work but two or three hours a day.
They are Reds from the start to the finish in belief and form of
government. *****

Q. Have you had arguments with Kate Richards O'Hare?

A. Yes.

Q. Did she advocate the Russian form of government?

A. Yes.

TESTIMONY OF ATLEY DULANEY, first having been duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:
(Native of Massachusetts; teacher in Commonwealth College)

Q. Do you believe in the social and political equality of the White and the Black races?

A. The Constitution says that all men are created equal and also Thomas Jefferson says that all men are created equal. *****

Q. Do you believe in the public ownership of lands?

A. Yes. ****

Q. You wouldn't confiscate the land?

A. We would force the owners to turn the land over but we would remunerate them for their lands, by bonds. ****

TESTIMONY OF BOB REED, first having been duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:
Age 20. Student at Commonwealth

Q. Did you attend any Labor meetings in Little Rock?

A. Meetings of Labor Groups?

Q. Yes.

A. I went to one.

Q. Where was that meeting held?

A. In North Little Rock. *****

Q. What was the purpose of the meeting?

A. It was a branch of the International Labor Defense Organization.

TESTIMONY OF CHARLOTTE MOSKOWITZ, first having been duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:
(Treasurer and teacher at Commonwealth College, wife of Raymond Koch)

Q. Do you believe in a Supreme Being?

A. What do you mean by a Supreme Being?

Q. God.

A. What do you mean by God?

Q. As referred to in the Bible.

A. I am sure I haven't read the Bible. My religion is my own code of conduct. I have a code of ethics, a code of conduct, and a code of ideals.

Q. Do you believe in God as taught in the Bible?

A. I told you that I didn't read the Bible.

Q. You know what the common definition of God is?

A. No. My religion would be much more social. *****

Q. Do you respect that flag up there?

A. I do not respect any symbol.

Q. What do you think that flag is for?

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you respect any other country's flag any more than you respect

A. I told you I didn't believe in any symbol so how could I respect any other country's flag? *****

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TESTIMONY OF JOHN SHEPHERD, first having been duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:
Age 42; born in Polk County, Arkansas; farmer; lives three-quarters of a mile from Commonwealth College for past three years.

Q. Now, what you learned from your own observation of the habits of the people at Commonwealth College. What is the reputation if you know it, with reference to their belief in a Supreme Being?

A. Their reputation is that they do not.

Q. Is it the reputation that they teach this?

A. Yes, sir. *****

Q. Do you think they have a high standard of morals?

A. No, sir. I do not.

Q. State whether you know if it is firmly thought in this community that the teachings of Commonwealth are non-American.

A. It is.

Q. State the feelings of the community towards the college as a whole.

A. I have heard some of the most influential and best citizens say they would like to see it turned over that bluff.

Q. State if it is firmly thought that their teachings trend toward Communism?

A. Yes.

TESTIMONY OF H. M. THACKERY, first having been duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:
(Secretary Arkansas State Federation of Labor --- named component organizations forming it.)

Q. Now, these organizations which you refer to were not officially or had no connection whatsoever with the American Federation of Labor?

A. No, sir.

Q. The American Federation of Labor has never at any time supported Commonwealth College?

A. No.

TESTIMONY OF W. C. MULLINS, first having been duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:
(Chairman State Legislative Board, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers)

Q. Mr. Mullins, you state that your labor organization as a whole does not have any connection directly or indirectly with the Commonwealth College, do you know of any individual in your organization who is connected directly or indirectly with that college?

A. I do not.

Q. That action, if any, do you believe your organization would take if they had sufficient proof their member of the organization was supporting that institution?

A. Well, we would put fire under that brother right away.

TESTIMONY OF FLOYD SHARP, first having been duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:
(Is Executive Secretary of the Federal Emergency Relief Association for the State of Arkansas)

Mr. Sharp testified to activities of members of Commonwealth College in various disturbances throughout the State, particularly against the Relief authorities.

TESTIMONY OF J. D. DURARD, first having been duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:
(Sheriff of Poinsett County, Arkansas)

Q. Have certain organizers of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union been active in that county organizing the tenants of that county?

A. They have.

Q. When was this first called to your attention?

A. In the spring of 1934. A Southern Tenant Farmers Union was organized. In one meeting, January 15th, 1935, Ward Rodgers, claiming to be a teacher under the F. E. R. A. educational program, made the statement that he could lead a mob within five minutes to lynch every landowner in Poinsett County, that they would try to pursue peaceful means, but if they did not get what they wanted he would lead a mob. At this meeting and on the platform where H. L. Mitchell, a Socialist living at Tyrone, Arkansas, Lucien Koch, and a negro preacher by the name of Brick McKinney, who they introduced as "Mr. McKinney". He was the principal speaker. After this meeting Rodgers was arrested and charged with "anarchy", tried, and sentenced to six months in jail and \$500.00 fine. For the past two months since Rodgers and Koch have been in our County, they have created much antagonism and class hatred among the share croppers, negroes and white, that it has been necessary to have deputies there.

TESTIMONY OF IRENE O'ROURKE, first having been duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:

(Lives in Marked Tree, Arkansas; age 28; married; has two children; has two brothers; among others, who have been to Commonwealth College. A brother, Marion Noble, belonged to the Methodist Church in Higginson, Arkansas; 24 years old; was graduated at the High School at Searcy, Arkansas.)

Q. What kind of disposition did Marion Noble have when he was in High School?

A. Well, very mild tempered. Just an ordinary boy. **** He finished High School at 18 or 19 and went right to the University of Arkansas, where he stayed more than a year. **** He went to Commonwealth College about four years ago. He traded a Delco Light system for his expenses at Commonwealth.

Q. Did you talk with him about the school?

A. Not very much. He did not say very much about it at that time. He came from Memphis to my house in December, 1934. *** He had been in California, working in the Radical movement. He had taught in a labor school in California.

Q. Now, during his stay of three or four weeks at your house did you talk with him then as to his beliefs in Socialism or Communism?

A. Yes. That was all he talked about.

Q. Did he state he was a Communist?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ask him where he got his belief or teaching?

A. Well, he was not a Radical until he went to that school.

Q. Did you discuss with him his religious beliefs?

A. Oh, yes. **** He is an atheist now; does not believe in God or anything, so he said. ****

Q. What is his belief as to free love?

A. They do not believe in marriage at all.

Q. Does he believe Russia is a better government than the U.S.?

A. Oh, yes; it is the only thing that will save America, so he says. ****

Q. Did your brother have a lady (Mae Wolf) with him when he came to your home in Marked Tree?

A. No, but he

Q. Was he married to Mae Wolf?

A. Not that we know of.

Q. Did you discuss that matter?
A. Yes, he first told me that he was married, then owned up that he was not.

Q. Where was he at that time?
A. At Commonwealth College.

Q. Do you have a younger brother?
A. Yes.

Q. What is his name?
A. I. J. Noble.

Q. How old is he now?
A. Fourteen, I believe.

Q. Did he visit Commonwealth College last year?
A. Yes, I would say about July.

Q. Did your younger brother express any astonishment after returning from the college about conditions?
A. Yes, he was very much upset about it.

Q. What did he say?
A. He told of the boys and girls living together, and about the use of profane language.

Q. You say he was not like that when he left home?
A. He talked about the bathing parties of the men and women and he said that at first he thought he would never get used to it, but he finally got educated to it. There must be a creek or river near Commonwealth College because he spoke freely of the mixed bathing parties in the nude and how beautiful the ladies were.

Q. Did he know any of the Soviet Union Songs?
A. Yes, he would sing songs about the Soviet Union. They sing songs about the Soviet Union at Commonwealth and he would sing these songs until the world looked level.

Q. What did he say about the Red Flag?
A. That it was the only flag and would be the only thing that would save the world.

Q. Mrs. O'Roark, did your brother state to you that his position was with reference to social equality of whites and blacks?
A. Yes, he was very much in favor of social equality and he says negroes are as good as any white person, and should be treated as same.

TESTIMONY OF D. S. TANKERSLEY, first having been duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:

(age 34; lives at Menz, Arkansas; served as deputy sheriff about four years ago)

Q. Now as a peace officer, were you ever thrown in contact with the students and teachers of Commonwealth College?
A. I was about eight years ago, sometimes to make an arrest and sometimes to serve civil papers. None of these arrests in 1921.

Q. Now, go ahead with your statement you started there.
A. Well, as I told you, I was on the yards there and there was a man came from Louisiana. I cannot give you his name now, but it appeared to me now his name is Long, and he came down there on the hunt for one of his girls, and so I put in most of the day trying to help. At last the man got her located at Commonwealth College and got a warrant before the Justice of the Peace, J. P. Smith, that afternoon late. Just before I went out there, there was a man came from Louisiana hunting for his girl. After this man from Louisiana had got a warrant for this young fellow, so I goes out to Commonwealth College and I stated to Mr. Benton that I wanted to see these young fellows and asked him if he could show them to me, and he goes out to

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his office and around to the bedroom and turns the light on and he pointed the two young fellows out to me. Then and their girls. They did not have beds, but had pallets, and there were four rows of pallets and a walk between the pallets and they were paired off in the same pallet clear across the room. The room was about 40 feet long.

Q. How many were in the room?

A. About 25 or 30 couples of them. *****

Q. How were they dressed?

A. Dressed in their night clothes, the four I got out of bed were. I got the two young fellows and the two girls. I did not have warrants for the girls, but taken them along to hold as witnesses for the examining trial the next day.

Q. Now, do you mean to testify that you went out to the college to arrest these two boys that the fathers of the two girls had sworn out warrants for, and found approximately 20 or 24 men and women sleeping together in the same room on pallets?

A. Yes.

Q. Were they ever tried?

A. When trial came up the girls were held to recognizance for appearing before the Grand Jury and when the Grand Jury said they indicted them, the same court would try them, but before they went into trial the old man from Louisiana made a proposal to this young man that if he would marry his girl that he would give them a little land and tools and the prosecuting attorney got the man to withdraw the charges against the boy by paying the cost of the court and him and the girl would marry and I got them the license and he could take them back with him. When the old man in Illinois seen what the fellow from Louisiana was doing, he makes the other young fellow the same proposition and he married this girl. *** Now, if you will go out to the college on Sunday afternoon, or any nice warm afternoon, you will see them all of them hills just lying around like they were on them pallets. *****

Q. What were they doing over there lying on the ground on those leaves?

A. They were lying there on the leaves and they seemed to be loving. ***

TESTIMONY OF W. C. BENTON, first having been duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:

(Age 62; attorney-at-law; lived in Mena, Arkansas; was living in Louisiana when Commonwealth College was founded there; spent a number of years there with them; moved to Polk County, near Mena, Arkansas, in 1924; in 1925 bought a farm about ten miles west of Mena and the institution was incorporated, October 6, 1925 *****)

Q. Now, who were the original founders *****

A. W. E. Zeuch, Kate Richards O'Hare and myself. *** Zeuch put in little money and Mrs. Kate Richards O'Hare put in some money. How much I don't know. I never put in a dollar myself. *** Zeuch personally went east and made one haul of first \$2,000 and then \$20,000 from what was known as "The Garland Fund" and a young fellow named Charles Garland had inherited 2 million dollars and left it to some sort of fund or other that was given to sorts of new notions. *** I think the largest pledge that was ever any time was that of Judge Brandeis.

Q. How much was that?

A. He only gave \$100 a year.

Q. Were the students all Anglo-Saxon, foreign extraction, or what?

A. We class them as foreigners, but as a matter of fact, most of them were native born. A large percent of them were New York Jews. ****

Q. Did Lucien Koch cause the break at Commonwealth College, which resulted in displacing Zeuch?
 A. I do not think that he was the principal reason. It was it to higher heads.

Q. What was the cause of the break?

A. I don't know. In my opinion, Zeuch was not radical enough for the people who caused the break. I am only guessing, but I would say, in my opinion, the ones who caused the break were Bill Cunningham and Clay Fulks. ****

Q. How is the school being run now with reference to education or propaganda?

A. Judging from the activities of the leading persons, I would say that they have become partisans on the side of all radical movements. **** My information leads me to believe Raymond Koch and Charlotte Moskewitz are avowed Communists.

Q. Are you of the opinion that radical propaganda taught in the school is taught to these students for the purpose of making agitators of them to go out over the country and militantly teach and present radicalism?

A. Judging from hearsay as to the facts, I would say that I am quite convinced.

Q. Is the school now being operated as a labor school?

A. It is my understanding that their object is to give education to young men and women with the particular purpose of fitting them to work in the labor movements of the country.

Q. For what purpose?

A. To enlighten these movements from their point of view.

Q. With what ultimate results?

A. Well, if they are teaching Communism, it seems to be the general assumption it is to make the labor movement Communistic.

Q. Is the Communistic party of America a duly and legally organized political party?

A. My understanding is that they are. During the last Presidential election they got on the ballot in several states.

Q. Do you understand Communists advocate openly the overthrow of constituted authority by force?

A. In my opinion, as in the opinion of most Communists, force will be necessary, IF THEIR OBJECT IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.

Q. In the event that Communism becomes the form of government, what authority would be the supreme authority in that government, as you understand it?

A. I would not assume that. If it became Communistic, Communism would set up its own form of government, but that Moscow dominates the Communistic government we know, and has an international organization directed at that point. ****

Q. Do you know of their teaching about God?

A. There has always been a mixed belief along that subject. As far as my knowledge goes, religion has always been unorthodox. **** (the students) took possession of the institution and killed me to him (Zeuch) ****

Q. Do you know Lucien Koch?

A. Yes. I have known him for over ten years. He was a student at Commonwealth College from the beginning. In my opinion Zeuch was not radical enough for the people who caused the break. Clay Fulks and Bill Cunningham wanted the school to be a partisan school. I would say that the school has become partisan on the side of all radical movements. They pay a great deal of attention to strikes and seem very much interested in disorder. The director himself (Lucien Koch) has figured prominently in several of these. I believe Raymond Koch, brother of Lucien, to be an avowed Communist and also Charlotte Moskewitz, the wife of Raymond Koch. ****

Q. Now would they attempt to breed contempt for constituted authority in order to stir up dissatisfaction, discontent generally and to make an appeal for their radical doctrines and the particular isms they represent, such as Socialism and Communism?

A. Yes.

Q. How long since you have been actively connected with the College?

A. I have not been in any connections with them since September, 1928.

TESTIMONY OF MINOR PIPKIN, first being duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:

(Age 65; attorney-at-law; lives at Mann, Arkansas)

Q. Have you ever represented Commonwealth College?

A. No, not the college, but when the Communist bunch came to Mann -- Joe Harrison, founder of the original colony at Little Louisiana, came to my office with a man by the name of Benton when they incorporated the colony business. **** Later, I represented Lucien Koch's wife before he married her, in getting a divorce. I obtained a decree on the 8th day of January, 1935.

Q. Do you know where Kate Richards O'Hare is?

A. I only know that she spent a term in the penitentiary at Leavenworth for Espionage during the World War. ****

Q. I have here what purports to be a copy of a letter under date of October 25th, 1934, signed by C. F. Klinefelter, Assistant Director Educational Division of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration - will you attach that letter to your testimony?

A. Yes. (extracts from letter) "Mr. Lucien Koch, President of Commonwealth College, has been in the office presenting the claim of his institution as a special case for participation in the college student aid program. *** You are therefore authorized to make an allotment of funds available to the institution the first of November by Mr. Aubrey Williams. --- I am sending a copy of this letter to Superintendent Phipps". --- I have made some inquiries as to why one Lucien Koch would have so devilish much influence with authorities in Washington and have been reliably informed that one Mr. Aubrey Williams, who is said in that letter to have approved this institution ----- was a classmate of Lucien Koch in the University of Wisconsin.

Q. I believe you stated that you were the attorney for the present Mrs. Koch, in procuring a divorce from her former husband, Frederick B. Maxham. -- Did he live on the campus at Commonwealth?

A. At the time of my first visit there to see about getting the divorce, he did not. ***

Q. After you obtained that divorce did Irene Merrill Maxham marry Lucien Koch?

A. She told me that she did, that is all I know about it.

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT M. HARRIS, first being duly sworn, testifies as follows, to-wit:

(lived in Mann since 1918; former owner and editor of Mann Star; now County Administrator F. B. R. A.)

Q. Do you have any connection with the Associated Press?

A. None whatever -- nor have had in the past. *** News items coming out of Mann -- usually originate in Little Rock or Fort Smith -- and would be given a Mann date line. ***

Q. Do you know why?

A. My opinion is that it is largely due to the fact that in recent years Commonwealth has ceased to be an educational institution and has become largely a school for agitation.

Q. What kind of agitators?

A. Labor agitators.

Q. Agitating what?

A. Well, maybe I can explain it better this way. You see whenever there is a labor disturbance or trouble with employers, Commonwealth sends a delegation to that point. In recent years they have sent representatives of their group to the Coal strikes in Illinois; to the farm holiday disturbance in Iowa, to the coal trouble in Kentucky. **** More recently Commonwealth sent a delegation to Eastern Arkansas to some sort of a sharecroppers trouble over there. About the same time they sent a delegation to Fort Smith where there was a demonstration by the workers employed on the F. E. R. A. relief projects. Those are the only places I recall now where they have sent representatives.

SYNOPSIS. THE REPORT OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS TO INVESTIGATE
COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE.

The report begins with a recital of the history of the college, its removal from Louisiana to Arkansas, its list of students and teachers and the fact that Professor Zouch, one of its founders, is now no longer connected with the institution. It continues:

"The testimony is to the effect that although Zouch was considered a radical he was not radical enough. ---the policy of the school today is agitational and has become partisan on the side of all radical movements. --- It substantiates our view that the school is an agitational organization. --- Our first notice was attracted three years ago by the school's adventure by automobile to further agitation in the coal fields of Kentucky. ---

"Representatives of the school have been in East Arkansas and in Fort Smith, agitating and leading a strike against the F.E.R.A. relief work, the result of which is to stir up strife between the classes - The Record is clear that there is a Socialistic as well as a Communistic faction on the campus. ---that these factions are fostering the dissensions in East Arkansas between the landlords and the tenants and that they are militant in advocating that the landlord system is wrong.

"These factions have entered into the plan of 'The United Front' and foster the Southern Tenants & Farmers Union, and revolutionary changes in our form of government.

"It is reasonable to infer from the record that the school authorities foster agitation and dissension whenever there is an outbreak, for the sole purpose of using such dissension as a vehicle in aid of their general program to bring about a change in social conditions - with the ultimate intent to establish a government according to their own views.

"The agitators sent out from the college are taking advantage of our tense economical condition to excite class hatred and brood racial friction and to promote domestic violence. They plead for the protection of Constitutional Rights which they are seeking to destroy.

"There is a sharp distinction between the right to advocate such doctrines by force and violence which will eventually cause violence and bloodshed, and then hide behind the constitutional cloak of the right of free speech.

"The testimony of the professors and teachers taken in the investigation fails to show that they are advocating a change in the constitutional form of government by force and violence, they having denied specifically that they are so doing. Some are, however, committed to the Communist Theory and their militant actions in fostering and leading and agitating dissension by strikes and otherwise over the state are extremely radical and close to the border line. ---

"We recommend that a close check be kept hereafter on the manner in which the principles they advocate are urged to be put into effect by the people, and if such teaching and principles tend to incite the people to overthrow the present constitutional government through violence and force, or may reasonably be expected to cause bloodshed, that they be prosecuted under the present criminal laws now in effect."

CHAIRMAN MILLER submitted a separate report, the substance of which was as follows:

"A dissenting opinion' was contained in a separate report submitted by Representative Marcus Miller of Polk County, chairman of the committee. Representative Miller in a strongly denunciatory manner in commenting on the institution said: 'There is a wide difference between an educational institution and an agitational institution. The people of Arkansas and Polk County have no way in accord with the teachings and doings of this so-called college. The institution is located 11 miles west of Morrilton.'"